

Meeks Bay Project Stakeholder Forum *Checklist for Virtual Participation*

- ✓ **Please mute yourself when you are not speaking.** This helps cut down on background noise. If on the phone use *6 to mute/unmute.
 - ✓ **Please check that your video camera is on if you are a stakeholder forum representative.** If you are joining the meeting as a member of the public, please leave your video off. If you choose to provide a comment during the forum meeting, we ask that you turn on your video while you are speaking.
 - ✓ **If you know you have less than optimal internet connection, we urge you to join through both a phone (for audio) and your computer (for video).** You may do so by joining the online meeting via the Zoom link and opting to join via phone audio. When you are dialing in, please be sure to enter your participant ID. Here is a step-by-step guide to help: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663-Joining-a-meeting-by-phone>
 - ✓ **Rename yourself after logging into Zoom.** We ask that you please rename yourself by hovering over your name in the "Participants" tab. Please change your name to be First name Last Name, Affiliation; so we can identify and engage each other better. Ex. "Austin McInerney (CBI, Facilitator)"
 - ✓ **Chats messages will only go to hosts.** Please direct any comments or questions in the chat function to Austin McInerney and we will share them with the group during discussion periods designated on the agenda.
 - ✓ **Bring a learning mindset** as we do our best to maximize engagement to the degree possible in this online setting!
 - ✓ **Meeting will be recorded** for possible sharing on project website.
- ✓ We will begin the meeting at 9:00 am so please hold tight.

Thank you!

1

1

Meeks Bay Project Stakeholder Forum #1 Welcome!













2

Meeks Bay Restoration Project Stakeholder Forum Meeting #1 Presentation



3

Summary of Tech + Working Agreements

 "Raise Zoom Hand" to Contribute	 All ideas and points of view have value
 Please MUTE always (Phone - *6)	 Think innovatively and welcome new ideas – solve problems
 Please remind us who you are before you speak	 Be honest, fair, and as candid as possible
 Chat Box for tech questions, links, questions	 Honor time
Tech Support Angel Suero via Chat or Text 978-259-8006	 Patience and creativity working with each other virtually
	 Invite humor and good will

4

Stakeholder Forum Meeting #1 Agenda

Time	Topic
9:00	Technology Walk-Through / Agenda Review / Welcome and Introductions
9:15	Stakeholder Forum Overview & Principles of Collaboration
9:45	Project Overview: Background & Project Goals
10:15	Assessment Findings Presentation & Discuss Key Concerns
11:00	Break - <i>Participants are asked to be back and ready for the meeting to resume promptly at 11:15</i>
11:15	Planning Process and Options to Participate with Potential Initial Input on Concepts for Draft Alternatives
11:45	Next Steps & Closing Remarks
12:00	Close

5

5

Meeks Bay Project Development Team

- **US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU):**
Stephanie Heller and Ashley Sibr
 - **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA):** Rebecca Cremeen
 - **Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LWB):** Brian Judge
 - **Ascent Environmental (Ascent):** Adam Lewandowski
 - **Consensus Building Institute (CBI):** Austin McNerny, Ekow Edzie & Angel Suero
-
- LTBMU: property owner/project proponent and lead agency for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - LWB: lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - TRPA: coordinating public engagement process
 - Ascent: planning and environmental analysis
 - CBI: stakeholder assessment and stakeholder forum facilitation

6

6

Meeks Bay Project Stakeholder Forum Representative Introductions and Group Exercise

Affiliation	Representative
Lake Tahoe Water Trail	Becky Bell
Tahoe Lakefront Owners Association	Jan Brisco
Meeks Bay Vista Property Owners Association	Tony Evans
League to Save Lake Tahoe	Gavin Feiger
Washoe Tribe Cultural/ Language Department	Herman Fillmore
Property Owner	Julie Hutchinson
Washoe Tribe Office of Environmental Protection	Susan Jamerson
Meeks Bay Yacht Club	Steve Matles
Meeks Bay Fire District	Steve McNamara
Lake Tahoe Marina Association	Jim Phelan
Friends of the West Shore	Jennifer Quashnick
Washoe Tribe Meeks Bay Resort	Rueben A. Vasquez

*What 1-3 words come to mind when you think of Meeks Bay?
See Chat Box for Link to Contribute*

7

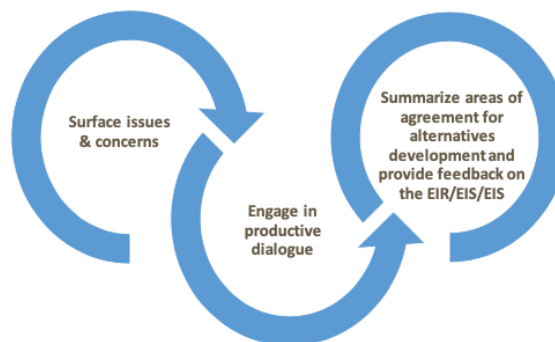
7

Meeks Bay Project Stakeholder Forum Overview & Purpose

9 Sessions • Diverse Interests & Perspectives Represented

STAKEHOLDER FORUM PRINCIPLES

- o Encourage problem solving & issue resolution via collaborative, **mutual gains approach**
- o Work closely with **technical team** from outset
- o Ensure **transparency**; sessions are open to the public



8

Meeks Bay Project Stakeholder Forum General Principles of Collaboration

Stakeholder forum representatives will:

- Be prepared to listen intently to the concerns of others and identify the interests represented.
- Ask questions and seek clarification to ensure full understanding of the content of discussions and other's interests, concerns, and comments.
- Be respectful of other's interests, even if they are not consistent with or oppose your own.
- Regard disagreements as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won.
- Commit to act in good faith and respect the personal integrity and values of others.
- Refrain from ascribing motives or intentions to other participants.

9

9

Meeks Bay Project Stakeholder Forum Virtual Meeting Ground Rules

Stakeholder forum members agree to:

- Respectful Engagement: All participants commit to actively engage with the discussion at hand during forum meetings. The facilitators will provide breaks to create time that participants can use to address unrelated issues.
- Conversational Courtesy: Participants will use the agreed to convention for establishing speaking order, e.g. using the Zoom virtual "hand-raise" function, to avoid participants speaking over one another.
- Honor time: participants will do their best to avoid repetition of the same points and respect the group's need to cover many topics efficiently.

10

10

Meeks Bay Project Stakeholder Forum Meeting Protocols

- **Agendas:** Will be distributed at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.
- **Meeting Summaries:** A written summary of each forum meeting will be distributed no later than two weeks following a meeting. Forum sessions will be recorded to help preparation of summaries.
- **Project Website:** Is under development and the URL will be shared ASAP.
- **Public Participation:** Stakeholder forum meetings are open to the public, to allow the public the opportunity observe and learn more about the Meeks Bay project development process. The public will also have designated time to provide input at forum meetings. However, Meeks Bay public workshops will be the primary venue for the public to directly engage with the Meeks Bay Project.

11

11

Meeks Bay Project Stakeholder Forum, Public Workshop & Hearing Schedule



12


12



13

SITE BACKGROUND

- Meeks Bay has a long history of land use, dating back to when the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California used it for a summer camp to hunt, collect plants, and conduct ceremonies.
- The area around Meeks Bay was clear cut during the Comstock Lode to provide timber for Virginia City.
- Meeks Bay Resort was established in the 1920's as a recreation destination.
- A marina was constructed on the site of the Meeks Lagoon in 1960.
- Significant ecological changes resulted after the construction of the marina.



14

This slide is titled 'SITE BACKGROUND' and contains a bulleted list of historical and ecological information about Meeks Bay. To the right of the text is an aerial photograph showing the bay's shoreline, a marina, and the surrounding forested area.

14

SITE BACKGROUND: Macro Scale

Meeks Bay is the outlet of Meeks Creek, which has a watershed reaching back into Desolation Wilderness.

Meeks Creek watershed is outlined in red.



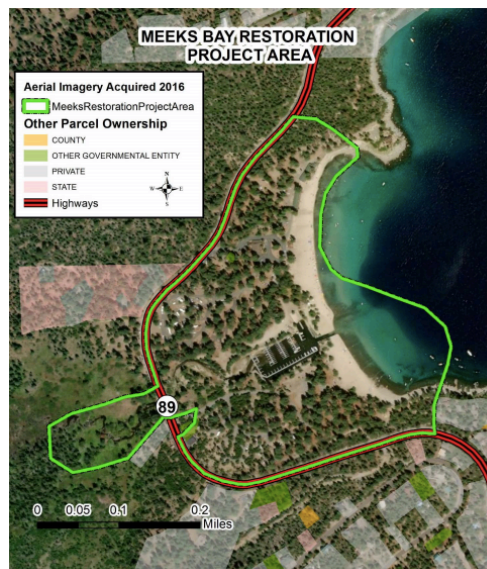
SWANSON HYDROLOGY + GEOMORPHOLOGY
500 Seabright Ave. Suite 202, Santa Cruz, CA, 95062
PH: 831.427.0288 FX: 831.427.0472

FIGURE 1.1 Oblique aerial view of Meeks Creek Watershed (outlined in red) looking Northwest. Aerial photo date: August 2003.

15

15

SITE BACKGROUND: Project Area



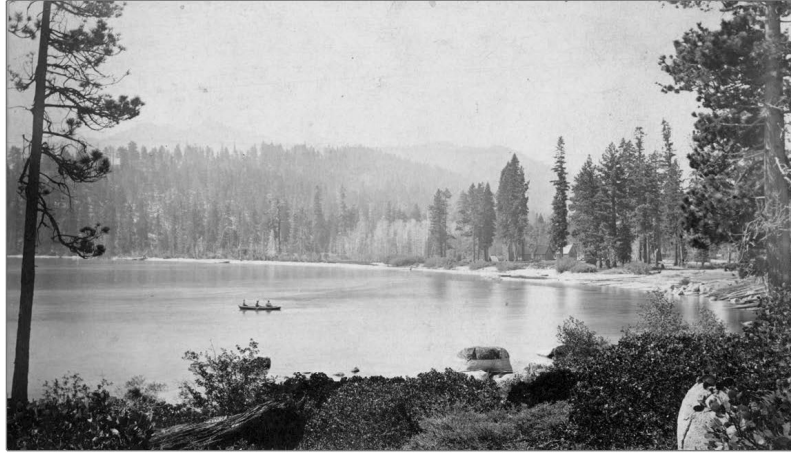
16

16

SITE BACKGROUND

The area around Meeks Bay was largely forested until it was clear-cut.

Mid-1880's photo of Meeks Bay.



SWANSON HYDROLOGY + GEOMORPHOLOGY
500 Seabright Ave, Suite 202 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
PH: 831.427.0288 FX: 831.427.0472

FIGURE 3.1: Mid-1880's photograph of Meeks Creek at Meeks Bay, before the logging industry clear-cut the forests. Cut logs ready for transport by barge to Glenbrook are seen at far right shoreline. The mouth of Meeks Creek at center of photo shows mature deciduous Aspen or Cottonwood. The surrounding old growth forest shows high quality habitat characteristics. Photo source: Goin, 1992.

17

17

SITE BACKGROUND

Meeks Creek formed a barrier beach system at the mouth of Lake Tahoe, which created a lagoon area and wetland.

1916 photo of Meeks Lagoon.



SWANSON HYDROLOGY + GEOMORPHOLOGY
500 Seabright Ave, Suite 202 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
PH: 831.427.0288 FX: 831.427.0472

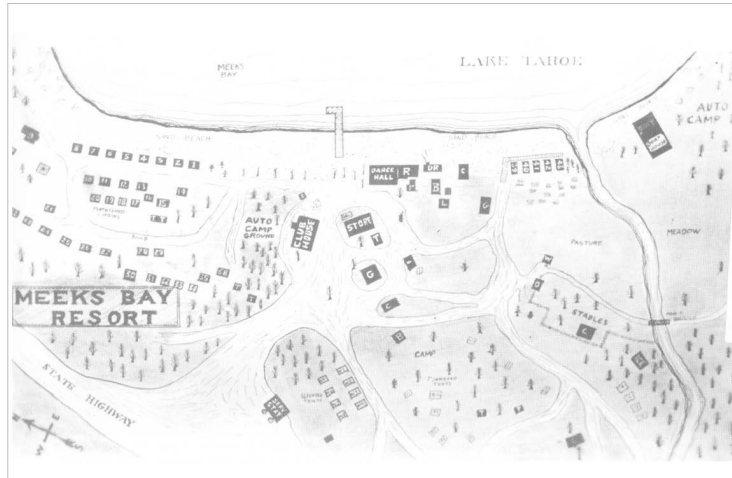
FIGURE 4.8: Photos showing Meeks shoreline wetland in 1916 during a Bureau of Reclamation survey of Tahoe shorelines. Lake Tahoe water level shown on card. Photo source: North Tahoe Historic Society.

18

SITE BACKGROUND

The 1920's saw the development of Meeks Bay as a recreation destination.

Late 1920's map of Meeks Bay Resort.



SWANSON HYDROLOGY + GEOMORPHOLOGY
500 Seabright Ave, Suite 202 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
PH 831.427.0288 FX 831.427.0472

FIGURE 4.11: A marketing postcard from the late 1920's of Meeks Bay Resort. While the drawing may embellish some details to attract tourists, it does show extensive disturbance along shoreline at former marsh/lagoon area with shoreline cabins labeled 29, 40, 41, 42, 43 and boathouse. Stable fencing is verified by figure 4.11. Source: Van Etten, 1994.

19

19

SITE BACKGROUND

Not unlike many developments in the early 20th century, the recreation resources at Meeks were largely developed in piecemeal fashion and with little consideration of ecological habitat and landscape stewardship.

1940's Meeks Resort photo.



STANDING ROOM ONLY is the rule in this Frasher postcard photo. The highly visible paint job on the Boathouse roof identifies the location to airborne observers. And look at all those umbrellas!
Frasher postcard from the Kehlet family collection

SWANSON HYDROLOGY + GEOMORPHOLOGY
500 Seabright Ave, Suite 202 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
PH 831.427.0288 FX 831.427.0472

FIGURE 4.20: Meeks Bay Resort beach circa 1940's. Note sparse conifer cover on hillside still 70+ years after clear cutting. Meeks Creek mouth is located between the boat house with "Meeks Bay" sign on roof and shoreline cabins. Some Aspen trees are visible behind shoreline cabins. Photo source: Van Etten, 1994.

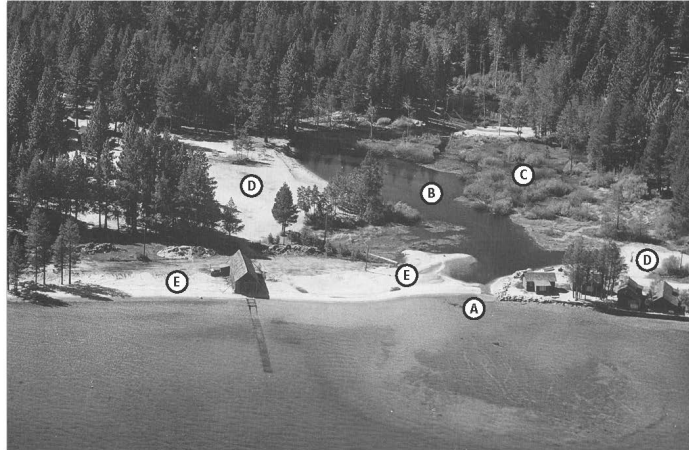
20

20

SITE BACKGROUND

The Meeks lagoon ecosystem supported a variety of plant species, including many that are unique to Lake Tahoe and the barrier beach ecosystem, such as Tahoe yellowcress.

1960 oblique aerial of Meeks lagoon prior to dredging.



SWANSON HYDROLOGY + GEOMORPHOLOGY
500 Seabright Ave, Suite 202 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
PH 831.427.0288 FX 831.427.0472

FIGURE 4.22: Aerial view of the mouth of Meeks Creek about 1960 just prior to dredging and construction of the Marina. (A) shows a closed mouth with water backed up into lagoon (B). (C) shows willow scrub/marsh plant communities. (D) shows areas of fill (old dump site), and (E) shows areas of recent grading activity. (D) shows areas of fill, and E shows areas of recent grading activity.

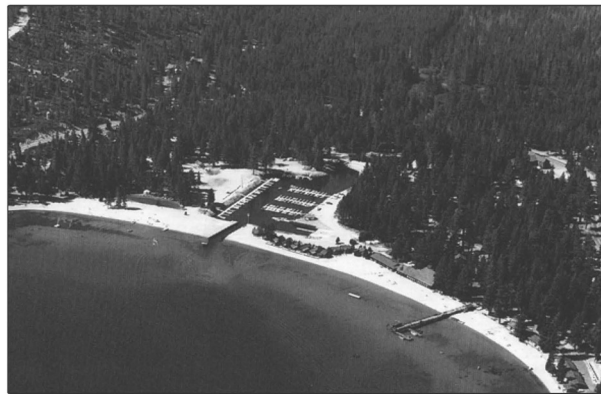
21

21

SITE BACKGROUND

The most significant land change was completed with the dredging of the lagoon to create a marina in 1960.

1968 oblique aerial of the marina and Meeks Resort pier.



SWANSON HYDROLOGY + GEOMORPHOLOGY
500 Seabright Ave, Suite 202 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
PH 831.427.0288 FX 831.427.0472

FIGURE 4.24: 1968 oblique view of Meeks Bay following completion of the Marina. Photo source: Van Etten, 1994.

22

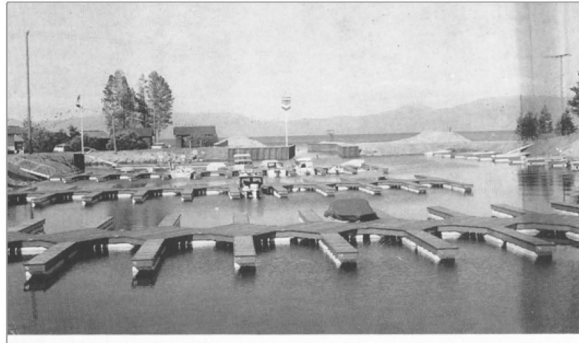
22

SITE BACKGROUND

An operable marina requires regular dredging of the mouth, as well as interior of the marina to remain useable.

Meeks Marina is considered the #2 source of warm water invasive fish and aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe.

1961 marina photo.



THE SLIPS ARE IN PLACE, and the new Marina awaits its first customers during Easter week, 1961.
Kehlet family photo

SWANSON HYDROLOGY + GEOMORPHOLOGY
500 Seabright Ave, Suite 202 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
PH: 831.427.0288 FX: 831.427.0472

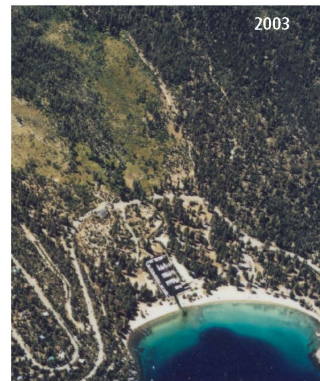
FIGURE 4.25: Meeks Marina shortly after completion in 1961. Photo source: Van Etten 1994.

23

23

SITE BACKGROUND

The marina has been dredged into an artificially deepened, widened, and fixed configuration, resulting in a lack of natural hydraulic processes and function in the dynamic floodplain /shoreline area, and resulting in generally poor primary benthic productivity and species viability.



SWANSON HYDROLOGY + GEOMORPHOLOGY
500 Seabright Ave, Suite 202 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
PH: 831.427.0288 FX: 831.427.0472

FIGURE 5.24: Aerial comparison of the mouth of Meeks Creek, pre-and post-Marina construction. Note extensive lagoon and will scrub/meadow vegetation in 1950 which is completely absent in 2003. Also note dense conifer forest cover on meadow upstream of highway 89 in 1950's versus post-harvesting conditions in 2003.

24

24

SITE BACKGROUND



Meeks Creek below Highway 89 is in a highly degraded, ecological state of dysfunction. The channel is deeply incised (4-6 feet) and eroding as a result of marina construction and continued maintenance dredging.



25

25

PROJECT PURPOSE

The deteriorating condition of the existing marina infrastructure, concerns over aquatic invasive species, and concerns over degraded habitat for native species have prompted the need for action in Meeks Bay.

26

26

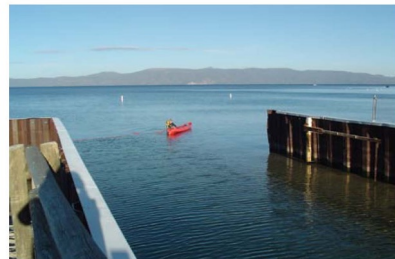
PROJECT PURPOSE

Marina Oct 7, 2003



The purpose of this project is to move the Meeks Creek stream channel and wetland/lagoon below State Route 89 (SR89) to a more natural condition where geomorphic and hydrologic processes support a functioning ecosystem while continuing to support sustainable recreation opportunities.

Drilling Soil Core D



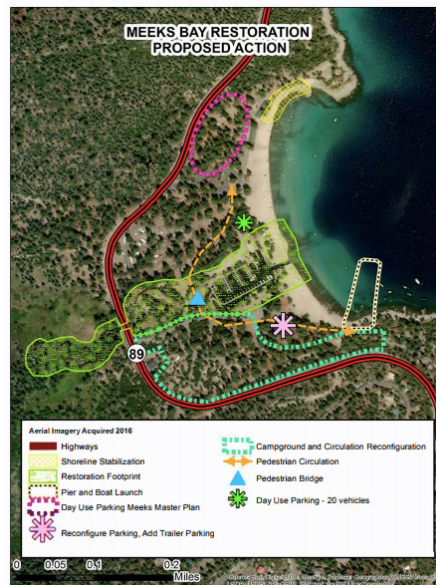
27

27

PROJECT NEED

To move towards the desired conditions for sustainable recreation, and to address the needs for improved environmental conditions of the Meeks Bay area, the following needs have been identified:

- Improve hydrologic function and processes of Meeks Creek, Meeks lagoon, and associated floodplain.
- Restore degraded aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats and barrier beaches, to provide high quality habitat that is resilient to a changing climate.

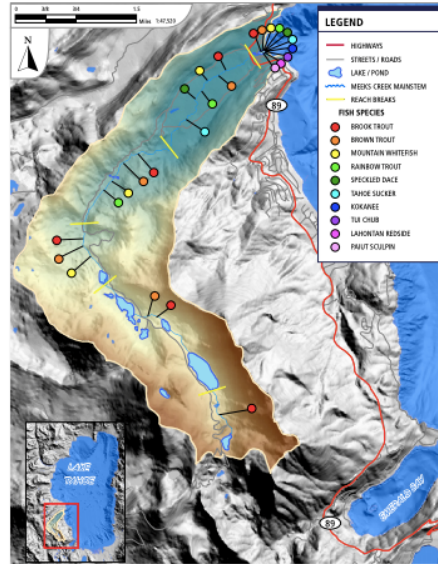


28

PROJECT NEED

(Needs continued)

- Improve fish passage through the SR 89 stream crossing, and control or eradicate current populations of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant and animal species.
- Promote the TEPCS species Tahoe yellowcress (*Rorippa subumbellata*) and Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*)
- Replace the Caltrans bridge to allow for aquatic organism passage (AOP)



29

PROJECT NEED

(Needs continued)

- Maintain and enhance access to Lake Tahoe and NFS system lands.
- Provide sustainable recreation opportunities consistent with a functioning ecosystem.
- Enhance educational and interpretive opportunities.
- Enhance species of value to the Washoe Tribe.

30

30



Assessment Findings and Recommendations *Meeks Bay Project*



July 15, 2020

31

Stakeholder Assessment

- **CBI** conducted an assessment on the Meeks Bay project
- **Purpose:** Assess perspectives on the future of Meeks Bay; identify areas of convergence and divergence; clarify key issues
- **Methodology:** 19 interviews with 26 people; high level, key themes summarized without attribution
- **Participants:** Broad range of stakeholders representing diversity of perspectives



32


ASSESSMENT FINDINGS






33

“Meeks Bay is a gem.”





34

“...one of the last places with an open view.”



35

1. Interviewees Wish to Maintain & Enhance Meeks Bay's Unique Character



36

1. Interviewees Wish to Maintain & Enhance Meeks Bay's Unique Character



37

“This effort should maximize the things we love about Meeks Bay.”



38

2. Interviewees See Opportunity for Meeks Bay Restoration & Stewardship

Interviewees described this effort as an opportunity to:

- Protect **water quality** to ensure the water remains clear
- Improve **creek function** to support **connectivity** between lagoon and upper watershed
- Reduce **sediment**
- Reduce **fuel loads & increase defensible space**, where possible
- Restore **habitat** to enhance species composition and **biodiversity**
- Eradicate **aquatic invasive species** (AIS) - milfoil, bullfrogs, warm water fish species
- Interface with and coordinate CalTrans **SR89 corridor planning** effort and other transportation planning efforts
- Enhance **interpretive signage** about Meeks Bay natural & cultural history (in partnership with Washoe Tribe)



39

**“We have the opportunity to do this right
to restore Meeks Bay.”**



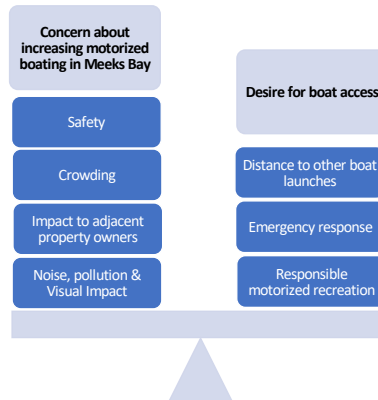
40

3. Interviewees Shared Mixed Perspectives on a Prospective Pier

Many interviewees articulated a **preference for nonmotorized** recreation in Meeks Bay.

Yet some interviewees would like the **ability to put boats in the water** in Meeks Bay.

Some suggested a **smaller pier**, perhaps designed for nonmotorized watercraft.



41

4. There is considerable resistance to placing a pier & boat launch in the southern section of Meeks Bay

Interviewees cited the following reasons not to place a pier & boat ramp in the proposed location:

- Southern section of Meeks Bay is **quiet**
- Proposed location would involve **tree removal** & **loss of beach**
- Some perceive that this plan attempts to **fit too much** in a small area changing the character of Meeks Bay
- A pier and boat launch are **noisy** & **disruptive** (thus shouldn't be beside the beach or near adjacent private property owners)
- Increase in boat traffic would decrease **privacy** on beach and to adjacent property owners



42

“Boat ramps have **noise**, yelling, cars backing up, people hauling stuff in and out. It’s noisy and **disruptive**...It would disrupt the **serenity** [of Meeks Bay].”



43

4. There is considerable resistance to placing a pier & boat launch in the southern section of Meeks Bay

Some - including motorized recreators - prefer to see a pier in the **north side** of Meeks Bay.

However, many people noted **physical constraints** in Meeks Bay that may limit possible placement options for a pier.

Several people suggested restoring the **existing boat launch**, which has a one-way, drive-through design for **traffic** management.



44

5. Many Interviewees Expressed Concern About Increasing Visitors to Meeks Bay

Interviewees are concerned that a pier would draw increased traffic to Meeks Bay, thereby disrupting its **quiet, peaceful character**.

Some wish to enhance access and circulation for **low impact recreation** (bike, pedestrians, kayak, etc.)

Many articulated concern that **increased visitation** (due to motorized boating) would lead to:

- Further development • Traffic congestion • Inadequate emergency egress • Negative environmental impact • Decrease in privacy

Some interviewees cited development at Tahoe Keys, Zephyr Cove and South Lake Tahoe as examples of **what not to do**.

Some are concerned that there are more visitors to Meeks Bay than the **ecosystem** can sustain. These interviewees suggested using a **parks model** with a user-friendly interface to **equitably manage** the number of visitors.



45

6. Stakeholders Express a Specific Concern around Increased FIRE risk If Recreation Infrastructure is Expanded

Stakeholders note that **Highway 89 is already a high-risk road in the case of fire**; increased visitation and boating traffic in particular would exacerbate these risks for visitors and local home-owners.

Stakeholders highlight the Gondola Fire and Cascade Fire of 2016 as examples of the major fire-risk that exists along the Highway 89 corridor.

In addition to mitigating fire risk by avoiding increased congestion on Highway 89, some stakeholders suggest specific **collaboration with local fire and rescue authorities** on projects that would increase public safety in the area.



46

7. Interviewees Expressed Concern About Visual Impact from Buoy Field

NOTE - Though the Proposed Action did not include a buoy field and one is not proposed due to compliance with the Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan, commenters shared the following concerns with any buoy field proposals:

Interviewees expressed concern that **boat slips** from the decommissioned marina would be replaced by moorings in Meeks Bay.

Interviewees fear that this would **impair open views** that some describe as "pristine."

Additionally, interviewees fear that a buoy field would compromise **safety** for nonmotorized recreators.

Some interviewees suggested **reopening/rehabilitating the Marina** as a model "green marina." These interviewees cited:

- Aesthetic benefit (vs. buoys)
- Dependable revenue source
- Boat storage
- the marina avoids the need for a pier and boat launch
- The marina has historically provided crucial "safe harbor" for boats when storms roll in





47

"Restoring the marina would have the least impact on the Bay, on the views, on the beach users, on boaters, kayakers, and everybody else."



48

“It will take away from the Meeks Bay feel
if many moorings are put in.”



49

INFORMATION NEEDS



50

Interviewees Suggest Considering a Range of Technical Information to Support Robust Alternatives Analysis & Decision-Making

- Water levels, **shelves** & **sandbars**
- Size of various **user groups** (e.g. beach users, motorized boaters)
- More details about the **proposed pier**, including location, size, level and type of use, how it will be constructed
- **Anticipated boating activity** associated with pier & boat launch (day use vs. overnight; potential user conflicts)
- Boat and/or pier effect on **littoral drift** on shoreline
- **AIS control** (is RCD able to staff a boat launch inspection station?)
- Can we **fully restore bay** area & eliminate need for retaining wall?
- Impact of **SR89 bridge** on creek sinuosity and fish passage (current width vs. design alternatives)



51

Interviewees Suggest Considering a Range of Technical Information to Support Robust Alternatives Analysis & Decision-Making

- Impacts to **creek meander** if sheet piling is removed & creek mouth restored
- **Scenic** impacts
- **Noise, air & water quality** impacts
- Alternative with **reduced boater access** (no pier and/or no boat launch)
- Ecological benefits of **lagoon restoration** vs. available treatments for **marina reopening** & associated impacts
- Impact to quiet, safe, **nonmotorized access** (as is presently available)
- Impacts of **alternative locations for ramp and pier** (particularly on north side of Bay)
- **Campground** trends & demands
- **Parking & traffic circulation**
- Approaches to equitably **manage high demand** and **mitigate over-use**
- Existing conservation strategy for **Tahoe yellow cress**



52

“Ensure things are right-sized and complementary.”



53

RECOMMENDATIONS:
PUBLIC OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT



54

**“One of the biggest mistakes agencies make
is not telling the public what’s going on.”**



55

Communicate With an Open, Inclusive, Transparent Process to Build Trust

Communicate clearly, directly & transparently

- Clearly frame issues, timeline, opportunities for engagement

Seek **early, broad public input**, before the outcome is determined

- Present options as draft/work in progress
- Very polished proposals may be read as a “done deal”

Use **descriptive messaging**

- Framing as a restoration project - when recreation & development are also significant components - can lead to public distrust



56

“They can’t release public documents in October and then hold public meetings when no one is there to attend.”



57

Timeline & Schedule Must Support Summer Engagement

Conduct public outreach & hold key meetings in the **summer**

- In-person public processes held in autumn & winter are perceived as disingenuous
- However, **virtual workshops** present opportunity for year-round engagement

Aim for **spring release** of key documents

- Target April or May release, followed by summer outreach

During off-season, continue to disseminate **monthly project updates**

- While the project will proceed year-round, routine email updates will support ongoing engagement & transparency



58

“Because people love this place so much,
they will be organized.”



59

Shape Public Outreach for Varied Ages & Technology Access

Interactive webpage for public review and feedback

Communicate via **email** & **direct mail**

Provide on-site information via **signage**

On busy beach days, host an **information tent** and offer a **survey**

Local media coverage (print, radio, television)



60

Shape Public Outreach for Varied Ages & Technology Access

Social media

- Partner organizations can share project information via Next Door, Facebook & other social media platforms
- Note that the lead agencies are unable to moderate discussion on third-party social media pages

Partner with **local entities** to spread word to their networks

- Washoe Tribe newsletters
- Water Trail and marinas can communicate to end users
- HOAs
- Tahoe Environmental Research Center
- Existing local committees and organizations

Hold **virtual & in-person meetings** (in summer!)

- Stakeholder Forum is open to public
- Public workshops (in-person & online)
- Online tools



61

“Have a strong visual simulation partner to illustrate the options. People like seeing the vision. It gives them something besides white paper with text.”



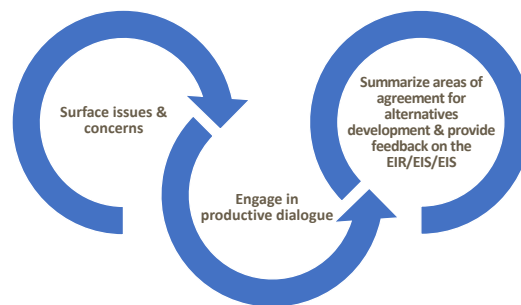
62

RECOMMENDATIONS: STAKEHOLDER FORUM



63

Stakeholder Forum Purpose



9 facilitated sessions over the course of development of alternatives • Representation from a broad range of interests & perspectives



64

Stakeholder Forum Principles to Establish a Foundation of Trust

Encourage problem solving & issue resolution via **mutual gains approach**

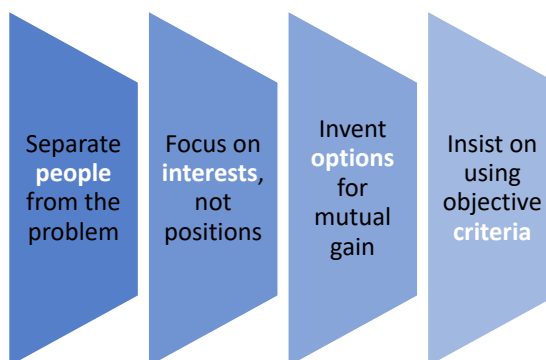
Work closely with **technical team** from outset

Ensure **transparency**; sessions are open to the public



65

Principle Elements of Mutual Gains Approach



66

Stakeholder Forum Participation Criteria

Need **representation** from a **broad range of interests** & perspectives

- Washoe Tribe (environment & cultural)
- Residents
- Nearby/adjacent property owners
- Motorized recreators
- Nonmotorized recreators
- Environmental
- Day & weekend users
- Emergency response
- Agencies – in consultation role?



67

Interviewees

INTERVIEWED



California Land Management	Eric Mart
California State Lands Commission	Jason Ramos
California State Parks	Courtney Rowe
California State Parks	Silver Hartman
Friends of the West Shore	Jennifer Quashnick
Lake Tahoe Marina Association	Bob Hassett
Lake Tahoe Marina Association	Jim Phelan
Lake Tahoe Water Trail	Becky Bell
League to Save Lake Tahoe	Gavin Feiger
Local Resident	David Jonsson
Meeks Bay Resort original family owners	Daret Kehlet
Meeks Bay Vista Property Owners Association	Dick Renard
Meeks Bay Vista Property Owners Association	David Coward

Meeks Bay Vista Property Owners Association	William Magrath
Meeks Bay Vista Property Owners Association	Anthony Evans
Meeks Bay Yacht Club, Commodore	Steve Matles
North Tahoe & Meeks Bay Fire Protection District	Steve McNamara
Property Owner	Julie Hutchinson
Sustainable Community Advocates	Steve Teshara
Tahoe Lakefront Owners Association	Jan Brisco
Tamarack Mutual	Julie Lane-Gray
Washoe Tribe Director of Cultural/Language Dept. & Washoe Tribal Council member	Herman Fillmore
Washoe Tribe Vice Chairman & Manager of Meeks Bay Resort	Rueben Vasquez
Washoe Tribe Office of Environmental Protection	Susan Jamerson
Washoe Tribe Office of Environmental Protection	Rhiana Jones
Washoe Tribe Office of Environmental Protection	Coralie Ditman





68

Questions / Comments



69

APPENDIX



70

Interview Questions

Introduction

1. Tell me a little bit about yourself/your organization's history in the Lake Tahoe area and involvement with Meeks Bay related issues.

Vision & Values

2. What do you value most about Meeks Bay and the surrounding areas? What's most important about Meeks Bay to you and/or your organization?
3. If you came back to Meeks Bay in 50 years, how would you know that the restoration and recreational access actions had been successful?

Issues

4. What are your primary interests or concerns related to the proposed restoration and recreational access project at Meeks Bay?
5. What do you consider the opportunities and constraints associated with this site?
6. What issues would a successful Meeks Bay project address? What issues might others raise?
7. What types of disagreements or conflict would you anticipate might emerge during the development of design alternatives for Meeks Bay? How might those conflicts be addressed or resolved?
8. What can we learn from previous efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin that might inform or improve this effort?
9. What political issues would you recommend that we be sensitive to as this effort moves forward? Whose support is essential?



71

Interview Questions

Technical

10. What information would you like to have or what technical questions would you like to be answered as part of this effort? Who has the knowledge/expertise, and credibility to provide that information?

Stakeholder Engagement & Concluding Thoughts

11. The engagement approach under consideration is to have a stakeholder committee (forum) help guide the development of design alternatives for Meeks Bay restoration and access. Who might you recommend to participate in the stakeholder forum and what primary interests/concerns do they represent?
12. What do you think are the most effective ways to communicate and engage with stakeholders such as yourself and the public about this project?
13. Is there anything else you think we should know or advice that you might offer? What other groups or individuals do you think are critical for us to speak with?



72



73



74

Planning Process and Options to Participate

- Provide Background information on agencies and environmental review
- Describe planning process and opportunities for stakeholder participation
- Discuss alternatives development



75

75

Lead Agency Roles

U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

- Landowner and project proponent
- Federal lead agency



Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

- Project review and approval
- Convener of stakeholder forum



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Project review and approval
- California lead agency



76

76

Environmental Review Background

Federal, Regional, and State requirements:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Environmental Review
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Purpose:

- Inform the public and decision-makers
- Identify feasible mitigations for significant environmental effects

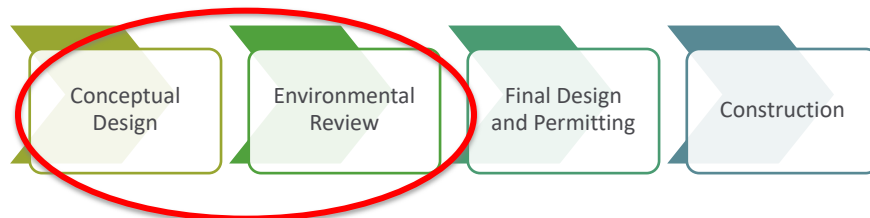
Process:

- Scoping – identify issues and alternatives to be evaluated
- Prepare Draft EIS/EIS/EIR
- Public review and comment
- Prepare Final EIS/EIS/EIR and response to comments
- NEPA objection period and agency certification

77

77

Overall Project Development Process



78

78

Conceptual Design and Environmental Review



79

79

Participation in Alternatives Development

Opportunity	Goal
Stakeholder Forum # 1 (Today)	Share background information and identify issues
Stakeholder Forum # 2 (Aug 5)	Stakeholder input on elements to include in alternatives
Public Workshop # 1 (Aug 19)	Public input on elements to include in alternatives
Stakeholder Forum # 3 (Sep 9)	Share preliminary design alternatives, solicit stakeholder feedback on refinements
Public Workshop # 2 (Oct 14)	Share preliminary design alternatives, solicit public feedback on refinements
Stakeholder Forum # 4 (Oct 21)	Solicit stakeholder feedback on issues for TRPA Governing Board consideration
Public Hearing (Nov)	Solicit input on range of alternatives from TRPA Board and the public
Stakeholder Forum # 5 (Dec 9)	Share preferred alternative and solicit stakeholder feedback

*all dates are tentative

80

80

Role of Alternatives

NEPA, TRPA, and CEQA requirements:

- Evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives
- Achieve purpose and need/ meet most of the basic project objectives
- Avoid or reduce significant environmental impacts
- Be feasible

Purpose:

- Determine if the goals of the project can be achieved with an alternative approach that reduces impacts
- Allow for consideration of tradeoffs between alternative approaches

81

81

Considerations for Alternatives

Must achieve purpose and need/ meet most of the objectives:

- Improve hydrologic function
- Restore degraded habitats
- Improve fish passage, and control or eradicate invasive species
- Maintain and enhance access to Lake Tahoe and NFS system land.
- Provide sustainable recreation opportunities
- Enhance educational and interpretive opportunities.
- Enhance species of value to the Washoe Tribe.
- Promote Tahoe yellowcress and Lahontan cutthroat trout

82

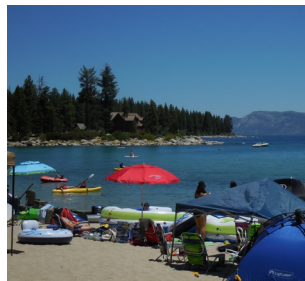
82

Considerations for Alternatives (continued)

Must avoid or reduce possible environmental effects of the proposed action

For example, impacts to:

- beach recreation, camping, or non-motorized boating;
- motorized watercraft access;
- scenic quality;
- noise or disturbance to nearby residents;
- water or air quality related to construction;
- transportation or circulation.



83

83

Questions for the Stakeholder Group

- Are there ways to improve the process?
- What additional information do you need?
- Is there specific information that should be posted on the project website?
- What environmental effects should the alternatives address?
- What are some of the design elements that you would like to see in an alternative?

84

84

Next Steps & Closing Remarks

Forum Members:

- Review today's meeting summary when sent out by or before July 29
- Review August 5 meeting agenda when issued on July 22
- Confer with your constituents to prepare for next forum meeting (8/5)

Members of the Public and Interested Parties:

- Make sure we have your email address if you are not already on the project list: please enter your name and contact info in the chat box
- Stay tuned for information and details on the August 19 public workshop
- Follow @TahoeAgency to keep informed

85

85

Responses to “what 1-3 words come to mind when you think of Meeks Bay?”



86

86